

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of searching for a help utility, comprising the steps of:
 providing a utility search dialog;
 inputting one or more search keywords directed to at least one help utility;
 searching at least one database containing a plurality of help utilities including help utilities associated with ~~provided by~~ a plurality variety of computer operating systems;
 finding a help utility matching the keywords among the plurality of help utilities; and
 executing the help utility.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 determining whether more than one help utility is found matching the keywords;
 displaying all help utilities found to match the keywords; and
 selecting one of all help utilities found to match keywords.
3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;
 inputting one or more additional keywords directed to at least one help utility; and
 searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities.
4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords but a related help utility that closely approximates the keywords is found, then displaying the related help utility; and
 invoking the related help utility.
5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of help utilities further includes help utilities associated with ~~provided by at least one~~ a variety of computer software applications.
7. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the plurality of help utilities comprises a plurality of wizards, each wizard associated with one of the variety of computer operating systems and wherein the related help utility is a wizard.
8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the plurality of help utilities comprises a plurality of help files, each help file associated with one of the variety of computer operating systems and wherein the related help utility is a help file.
9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the search keywords may be input using a plurality of languages.
10. (Currently amended) A method of searching for a function wizard, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a wizard search dialog;
 - inputting one or more search keywords;
 - searching at least one database containing a plurality of wizards according to the search keywords wherein the plurality of wizards includes wizards provided by a variety ~~plurality~~ of computer operating systems;
 - finding a wizard matching the search keywords; and
 - invoking the wizard.
11. (Currently amended) A method of searching for a function wizard, comprising the steps of:
 - providing at least one database containing a plurality of functions wherein the plurality of functions includes including functions associated with ~~from a plurality~~ variety of computer operating systems and functions associated with a variety of computer software applications;

providing a wizard search dialog;
 inputting one or more search terms directed to one of the plurality of functions;
 initiating a search within the database for a function wizard matching one of the plurality of functions based on the search terms;
 finding a function wizard matching one of the plurality of functions; and
 executing the function wizard.

12. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;
 inputting one or more search keywords directed to one of a plurality of help utilities;
 searching at least one database containing the plurality of help utilities including help utilities provided by a ~~plurality~~ variety of at least one of computer software applications and computer operating systems;
 finding a help utility matching the keywords;
 executing the help utility; and
 if after the step of searching the database, no help utility is found matching the keywords but a related help utility is found that closely approximates the keywords, then displaying the related help utility.

13. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

determining whether more than one help utility is found matching the keywords;
 displaying all help utilities found to match the keywords; and
 selecting one of all help utilities found to match the keywords.

14. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;

inputting one or more additional keywords directed to one of the plurality of help utilities; and

searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities.

15. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 12 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the step of invoking the related help utility.

16. (Currently amended) A system for searching for a help utility, comprising a computer program module operative:

to provide a utility search dialog;

to input one or more search terms directed to one of a plurality of help utilities;

to search at least one database containing the plurality of help utilities;

to find a help utility matching at least one of the search terms;

to execute the help utility;

if after the step of searching the database, no help utility is found matching at least one of the search terms but a related help utility is found that closely approximates the search terms, to display the related help utility; and

to invoke the related help utility.

17. (Previously presented) The computer program module of Claim 16, further operative:

to determine whether more than one help utility is found matching at least one of the search terms;

to display all help utilities found to match at least one of the search terms; and

to select one of all help utilities found to match at least one of the search terms.

18. (Previously presented) The computer program module of Claim 16, further operative:
if after the step of searching the database containing the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching at least one of the search terms, to provide the utility search dialog;
to input one or more additional search terms directed to one of the plurality of help utilities; and
to search the database containing the plurality of help utilities.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer perform the steps of:
providing a utility search dialog;
receiving search keywords directed to at least one help utility;
searching ~~at least one database containing~~ of a plurality of help utilities across a variety of computer operating systems;
finding a help utility matching the keywords; and
if after the step of searching the ~~database~~ the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords but a related help utility that closely approximates the keywords is found, then displaying the related help utility.
21. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:
determining whether more than one help utility is found matching the keywords;
displaying all help utilities found to match the keywords; and
selecting one of all help utilities found to match the keywords.
22. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the steps of:

if after the step of searching ~~the database containing~~ the plurality of help utilities, no help utility is found matching the keywords, then providing the utility search dialog;

receiving one or more additional keywords directed to at least one of the plurality of help utilities; and

searching ~~the database containing~~ the plurality of help utilities.

23. (Previously presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 20 having stored thereon computer-executable instructions which when executed by a computer further perform the step of invoking the related help utility.

24. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the variety of computer operating systems comprises different computer operating systems that are connected in a network.

25. (New) A method for searching and managing a plurality of help utilities, comprising the steps of:

providing a utility search dialog;

receiving a search keyword directed to a help utility;

in response to receiving the search keyword, searching the plurality of help utilities across at least one of a plurality of computer operating systems and a plurality of computer software applications;

finding a help utility matching the keywords; and

executing the help utility matching the keyword.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of help utilities is associated with a different computer operating system than other help utilities of the plurality of help utilities.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the plurality of computer operating systems are connected in a network.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of help utilities is associated with a different computer software application than other help utilities of the plurality of help utilities and wherein the plurality of computer software applications are connected in a network.